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Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme and of the United Nations Population Fund

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UNITED NATIONS POPULATION FUND

Extensions of country programmes in the Africa Region

Note by the Executive Director

Summary

The present note contains information on the two-year extension of the UNFPA country programme for Mozambique.

In accordance with established procedures, the Executive Director approves the first one-year extension of a country programme, while requests for extensions for a second year or requests for two-year extensions are submitted to the Executive Board for approval.

The Executive Board may wish to approve the two-year extension of the country programme for Mozambique, as indicated in the attached table.

09-29651 (E) 150409

Extensions of UNFPA country programmes for which the approval of the Executive Board is sought

Country	Original programme period	Years proposed for extension	Explanation		
			United Nations harmonization	In-country political development	Implementation and/or other issues
Mozambique	2007-2009	2010-2011	The United Nations system in Mozambique, following the extension of the second poverty reduction strategy, and in consultation with the Government, has agreed to extend the 2007-2009 United Nations Development Assistance Framework by two years, through 2011. This will enable the United Nations Development Assistance Framework to be fully aligned with the next five-year plan of the Government, which is expected to be approved by early 2010. The country programmes of the Executive Committee agencies of the United Nations Development Group are also being extended for two years, through 2011.	National elections are scheduled to take place at the end of 2009. Soon after the elections, the Government is expected to develop a five-year plan covering the period 2010-2014. The Government has extended the current 2006-2009 poverty reduction strategy until 2010, to ensure consistency in the development approach as well as to ensure the commitment of the donor community during the development of the next five-year plan.	The two-year country programme extension will focus on increasing national capacity to implement major national plans that the Government has recently approved: (a) the plan on violence against women (Millennium Development Goal 3, on promoting gender equality and empowering women); (b) the reproductive health plan; (c) the integrated plan to achieve Millennium Development Goals 4 and 5 (on reducing child mortality and improving maternal health); and (d) the strategy for HIV and AIDS prevention (Millennium Development Goal 6, on combating HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases). Strategies will address the quality of reproductive health services and target adolescents and young people. The programme will build on the established multisectoral approach at national and provincial levels. The population and development component will support the analysis and dissemination of 2007 census data and decentralization efforts to focus efforts on poverty reduction strategies (Millennium Development Goal 1, on eradicating extreme poverty and hunger). The programme will continue to build national capacity to address emergency situations. UNFPA programme planning, monitoring, evaluation and audit activities will continue to be conducted jointly with other United Nations organizations and the Government. This will ensure system-wide coherence, thus increasing the impact on the national strategy for poverty reduction.

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Extensions of country programmes in the Arab States region

Note by the Executive Director

Summary

The present note contains information on the one-year extension of the country programme for the Occupied Palestinian Territory.

In accordance with established procedures, the Executive Director approves the first one-year extension of a country programme, while requests for extensions for a second year or two-year extensions are submitted to the Executive Board for approval.

The Executive Board may wish to take note of the one-year country programme extension for the Occupied Palestinian Territory.

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One-year country programme extension approved by the Executive Director

Country	Original programme period	Year proposed for extension	Explanation		
			United Nations harmonization	In-country political development	Implementation and/or other issues
Occupied Palestinian Territory	2006-2009	2010	A one-year extension of the country programme will permit all United Nations Development Group Executive Committee agencies to begin their new country programmes at the same time. Due to the commonalities in goals between UNICEF and UNFPA, which are related to maternal health, adolescent health, neonatal care and combating gender-based violence, as well as the number of common programme partners, starting the country programme cycle at the same time would increase programmatic synergies and United Nations coordination and collaboration. It would also provide improved programming for Palestinian women and children.	Since 2006, the Occupied Palestinian Territory has witnessed a growing political rift within Gaza and West Bank. As a result of the unrest, the internationally supported Government fled Gaza and an international embargo was enforced on the territory. Due to increased isolation, the ability of United Nations organizations to continue dialogue and programme interventions has been hindered. More recently, the situation in Gaza has been further compromised by armed conflicts between Hamas and Israeli forces, and the resulting military intervention.	UNFPA has been unable to sign project agreements with institutions in Gaza due to restricted access. This has limited initiatives and negated the possibility of nationally executed projects. Partner non-governmental organizations have continued to execute projects that provide vital services, such as emergency response, but the monitoring of these activities remains a challenge. UNFPA and UNICEF, in collaboration with the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, will conduct a family health survey that will provide much needed data to improve targeting for greater impact. An extension of the current programme cycle will allow adequate time to assess the situation.